

## Read the Bills Act: Section By Section

Section	Text	In Plain English
Section 1: Short Title	This Act may be cited as the 'Read the Bills Act'.	A catchy name.
Section 2: Text of Bill or Resolution To Specify Its Constitutional Authority, Current Law	Chapter 2 of title 1, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 105 the following:	This introduces where in U.S. Code the bill's language will be inserted. Other than Sections 3 and 4 described at the bottom, this section is the operational entirety of the bill.
`Sec. 105a	<b>Text of bill or resolution to specify its constitutional authority</b>	This section requires all bills and resolutions in either chamber to include a constitutional authority statement. Presently, only House bills have this requirement.
105a (a)	Requirement- `(1) IN GENERAL- Any bill or resolution introduced in either House of Congress shall contain a provision citing the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution of the United States to enact the proposed bill or resolution, including all the provisions thereof. `(2) FAILURE TO COMPLY- Any bill or resolution not in compliance with subsection (a)(1) shall not be accepted by the Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate.	This directs the clerk of either chamber to throw out any bill or resolution that lacks a constitutional authority statement.  *Every provision of the bill will apply to resolutions as well as bills.
105a (b)	`(b) Floor Consideration- `(1) IN GENERAL- The requirements of subsection (a)(1) shall apply to any bill or resolution presented for consideration on the floor of either House of Congress, including those bills or resolutions reported from a committee of either House of Congress, produced by conference between the 2 Houses of Congress, or offered as a manager's amendment. `(2) FAILURE TO COMPLY- Any bill or resolution not complying with subsection (A)(i) shall not be submitted for a vote on final passage.	As an additional safeguard, this prohibits both chambers from bringing a bill or resolution to the floor without a constitutional authority statement.
105a (c)	`(c) No Waiver or Modification- Neither House of Congress, nor Congress jointly, by concurrent resolution, or by unanimous consent, or by any other order, resolution, vote, or other means, may dispense with, or otherwise waive or modify, the requirements set forth in this section.	As an additional safeguard, this prohibits any parliamentary maneuver around the requirement for a constitutional authority statement.

<p>Sec. 105b and (a)</p>	<p><b>Text of bill or resolution to set forth current law</b>  Requirement-  (1) IN GENERAL- Any bill or resolution introduced in either House of Congress, designed to amend or modify the effect of, or which would have the effect of amending or modifying the effect of, any current provision of law, including the expiration date of any law, shall set forth--  (A) the amendments being proposed by the bill; and  (B) the current section of law as it would read as modified by the amendments proposed, showing deleted text struck through and inserted text underlined.  (2) FAILURE TO COMPLY- Any bill or resolution not complying with this subsection shall not be accepted by the Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate.</p>	<p>This section requires a bill that amends existing law include not just the changes, but the original language and the language as it would read with the revisions. The purpose of this is to make it easier for legislators and staff to review bills without having to go back and forth between existing code and figure out exactly what the changes do.</p> <p>It also includes the same enforcement component as the constitutional authority statement requirement above: that the clerks will not accept them if they do not meet this standard.</p>
<p>105b (b) and (c)</p>	<p>(b) Floor Consideration-  (1) IN GENERAL- The requirements of subsection (a)(1) shall apply to all bills or resolutions presented for consideration on the floor of either House of Congress, including those reported from a committee of either House of Congress, produced by conference between the 2 Houses of Congress or offered as a manager's amendment.  (2) FAILURE TO COMPLY- Any bill or resolution not complying with this subsection shall not be submitted to a vote on final passage.  (c) No Waiver or Modification- Neither House of Congress, nor Congress jointly, by concurrent resolution, or by unanimous consent, or by any other order, resolution, vote, or other means, may dispense with, or otherwise waive or modify, the requirements set forth in this section.</p>	<p>Analogous enforcement components to constitutional authority statement requirement: that no non-complying bill may be brought to the floor and no parliamentary procedure may be used as a work-around.</p>
<p>Sec. 105c and (a)</p>	<p><b>Text of amendment to set forth current bill</b>  Requirement-  (1) IN GENERAL- Any amendment to a bill or resolution introduced in either House of Congress shall set forth the current section of the bill or resolution as it would read as modified by the amendments proposed, showing deleted text struck through and inserted text underlined.  (2) FAILURE TO COMPLY- Any amendment not complying with this subsection shall not be accepted by the Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate.</p>	<p>Same readability requirement for bills and resolutions above, here applying to amendments.</p>

105c (b) and (c)	<p>`(b) Floor Consideration-</p> <p>`(1) IN GENERAL- The requirements of subsection (a)(1) shall apply to all bills or resolutions presented for consideration on the floor of either House of Congress, including those reported from a committee of either House of Congress, produced by conference between the 2 Houses of Congress or offered as a manager's amendment.</p> <p>`(2) FAILURE TO COMPLY- Any bill or resolution not complying with this subsection shall not be submitted to a vote on final passage.</p> <p>`(c) No Waiver or Modification- Neither House of Congress, nor Congress jointly, by concurrent resolution, or by unanimous consent, or by any other order, resolution, vote, or other means, may dispense with, or otherwise waive or modify, the requirements set forth in this section.</p>	Enforcement components again.
`Sec. 105d and (a)	<p><b>`Sec. 105d. Procedures prior to vote on bill or resolution</b></p> <p>`(a) In General- A vote on final passage of a bill (except for private bills) or resolution of a public character may not occur in either House of Congress, unless-</p>	This section requires that every bill had ample time to be reviewed by the public and members of Congress must affirm that they have read and understood the bill. Part (a) will establish the ample time and notice requirements. The term “of a public character” means internal resolutions (for example, resolutions to consider a bill) does not have this requirement.
105d (a) (1)	<p>`(1) the full text of the bill or resolution, or original language and all adopted amendments to the same effect, is published at least 7 days before the vote on the official public Internet site of the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (in the case of a bill or resolution in the House of Representatives) or the Office of the Secretary of the Senate (in the case of a bill or resolution in the Senate), easily available to and readily usable by the public, using an open format that is platform independent, machine readable, and available without restrictions respecting searching, retrieval, downloading, and indexing, separate and apart from the calendar of the Senate or the House of Representatives; and</p>	Requires that every vote on a bill’s passage take place no less than 7 days after the text of the bill is available on-line to the public where it can easily be found.

105d (a)(2)	`(2) public notice of the specific calendar week during which the vote is scheduled to take place is posted on the official Internet website described in paragraph (1) not less than 6 days before the Monday of the calendar week during which the vote is scheduled to take place, with failure to take the vote during the noticed week requiring a new notice.	Requires that the public be notified no later than Tuesday the week before the vote comes up that the vote will take place sometime the next week.
105d(b)	`(b) Roll Call- No vote on final passage of a bill (except for private bills) or resolution may occur in either House of Congress unless taken by roll call.	Requires roll call votes for passage of all bills and resolutions except private bills.
105d (c)	`(c) Journal- With respect to each vote on final passage of a bill (except for a private bill) or resolution, each House of Congress shall cause to be recorded in the journal of its proceedings that the publishing, notice, and reading requirements under this section have been met.	Requires the publishing, notice, and reading requirements having been met be noted in the journal. This effectively makes the clerk a witness.
105d (d)	`(d) No Waiver or Modification- Neither House of Congress, nor Congress jointly, by concurrent resolution, or by unanimous consent, or by any other order, resolution, vote, or other means, may dispense with, or otherwise waive or modify, the requirements set forth in this section.	Another prohibition of parliamentary procedure as a work-around.
105d(e)	(e) Exception for Declarations of War- This section shall not apply with respect to any bill or resolution which constitutes a declaration of war.	An exception for a declaration of war, which may need to be done without a 7-day notice.
`Sec. 105e and (a)	<b>`Sec. 105e. Enforcement clause</b>  `(a) In General- An Act of Congress not in compliance with sections 105a, 105b, or 105c, or whose process of passage did not comply with section 105d, shall have no force or effect and no legal, equitable, regulatory, civil, or criminal action may be brought under such an Act of Congress.	Any law passed without compliance is null and void.
105e (b)	`(b) Cause of Action- Without regard to the amount in controversy, a cause of action under sections 2201 and 2202 of title 28, United States Code, against the United States seeking appropriate relief (including an injunction against enforcement of any law, the passage of which did not conform to the requirements of sections 105a, 105b, 105c, or 105d) may be brought by--	Provides standing for people to sue over laws passed that do not comply. Standing granted to...

105e (b)(1),(2)	<p>`(1) any person aggrieved by any action of any officer or employee in the executive branch of the Federal Government under any Act of Congress that does not comply with sections 105a, 105b, 105c, or 105d;</p> <p>`(2) any Member of Congress aggrieved by the failure of the House of Congress of which the Member is a Member to comply with sections 105a, 105b, 105c, or 105d; and</p>	Anyone harmed by a federal bureaucrat enforcing a non-compliant act, and any member of Congress in the chamber where the violation occurred.
Section 3: Severability clause	If any provision of this Act or an amendment made by this Act, or the application of a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid for any reason in any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act and amendments made by this Act, and the application of the provisions and amendment to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected.	If any part of this bill is ruled unconstitutional or invalid, the rest remains.
Section 4: Effective date	This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to bills and resolutions introduced or considered during the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress or any succeeding Congress.	Starting next session.